

September 20, 2011



John L Riley
8-16-1964
Resident at Mabley Developmental Center
Dixon, IL

Dear Members of the Human Services Commission:

I am writing to all of you to beg you to reconsider the closing of the Mabley Developmental Center in Dixon by voting for a supplemental appropriation. Without his home at Mabley, my son, John Riley, will suffer tremendously and irreversibly. This residential facility provides skilled care for individuals with developmental and sensory disabilities, as well as opportunities to work and interact with the community. **John, a twenty-year resident of Mabley is hearing impaired, mentally challenged and autistic.** He needs sign language to communicate with others. Changes in environment and care cause extreme deterioration in John's physical and social well-being. The only qualified facility for John is Mabley, where staff are fluent with signing and part of his family.

The State of Illinois, by its lack of funding, is showing immoral disregard for my son John, and many like him, who are among the most vulnerable in our society and who we are bound to protect and serve by law and conscience.

Mabley has quite a few residents who are hearing impaired. Not only do these individuals have severe communication and sensory handicaps like Johnny, but many are physically disabled as well. They could not survive in a community setting. They need the specialized training and medical attention from staff which Mabley can provide.

John was asked to leave Misericordia in Chicago because of his behavior problems and their inability to communicate with him. Just three years ago, he was refused admission to a CILA. I am unable to care for him at home.

There is no other facility in the state that is able to provide these vulnerable citizens with the services they need and deserve. I cannot say enough for the qualified staff and the wonderful care they give to all the clients. They provide a safe and healthy atmosphere for these severely afflicted individuals. The campus itself is a wonderful facility. It provides a home-like, yet safe setting where those who are able can independently travel from the campus. I wish you could visit Mabley and see for yourself. It provides as normal a setting as possible for all the residents.

Senator, these people did not ask to be born this way. As human beings, we are morally obligated to provide the needed services for these developmentally disabled individuals, who are among the most vulnerable in our society. Quality of life and human dignity are at stake here.

Please help us with our request now. God bless you for your consideration and positive action on this very critical situation.

Sincerely,

Mary N. Riley (Mother)
236 Buckminster Court
Lake Bluff, IL 60044